



THE NEWSLETTER

of

The FRIENDS of BELAIR PARK

JUNE 1993

President Ron Pitman. Secretary Lyn Coombe. Treasurer Joyce Underdown.

Patron & Editor of Newsletter Ray Nash.

Vice-presidents Daphne Johncock & Joy Hargreaves. Assistant treasurer Beth Pitman.

Committee members Lareen Newman, Godfrey Parkinson and Barry Burley.

PARK STAFF UNDER THREAT, AGAIN.

As most members would have become aware, through the news media, that the state Government is to reduce the Public Service by from 3,000 to possible 12,000 members. This possible staff reduction will most likely reduce the ranger and other staff in our parks, it is said by some that 18 rangers will go. Already the ranger staff and others through out the state is far too low to fully service our parks. Once before we ran a program called STOP (Staff Our Parks) which caused the Government to slow down a little.

Due to the possibility that staff will go, the Public Service union has wisely decided that rangers should not support volunteers in our parks, especially that time that has in the past been the rangers own after hours time.

To support the rangers and other staff it has been decided that the Friends of Belair will show their support for these people by suspending our working activities in the park for a time. Letters are also to be prepared and sent to the Minister Mr Mayes and other politicians expressing our concern on the depletion of staff in our parks. You are asked to support our protest.

Obituary

It is with deep regret that we must inform members of the passing of Sam Porter, who died on May 15th after an illness of several months. Sam attended meetings and was a member of the Tuesday and Patron's walks.

PAST EVENTS

MEETING REPORTS.

No reports on meetings have been received.

WALK REPORTS

Tuesday Walks by Lynda Knight.

Since the commencement of walks in April this year, we have had an average of nine to ten people enjoying the autumn weather. Walks have been made up the Jubilee Drive and around and about the adjacent bushland trails. The Melville Gully area has also been visited. During the walks we have managed to see the last of the Parson's Bands orchid (*Eriochilus cucullatus*) on Tuesday the 11th of May. The heaths are beginning to flower, but the garland lilies (*Calostemma purpureum*) have long since flowered without us seeing them.

We expect to enjoy more interesting walks and invite everyone to join us, on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at 2 p.m.

Patron's Walk by R.Nash.

I offer my apologies to members as in the last Newsletter I put the wrong date, eg the 26th of March when it should have read the 30th of March. One member did see the error and did turn up at the bottom of Ackland's Hill and we both made the trip to Scott Creek C.P., where after a walk to an old ruin we were entertained for about 15 minutes by a Koala which when first seen was low in a tree, moved to the ground and off to another group of trees where it climbed one, transferred to a second and finally jumped across to a third.

WORKING BEES REPORTS

By Pete and Lareen Newman.

This years main working bees are being held approximately a fortnight after each month's meeting, on the Sunday (see Friends' calendar for actual dates). We start at 10.00 am at the car park, lower end of Pines Oval Rd. and most people have worked to about 1.00 pm. Our project for the whole year is along the resurfaced footpath which goes from the car park, in a tortuous fashion to Old Government House (see map on notice board in the Info. Centre), We are to remove olives, boneseed, etc either side of this track and use them to cover off all old sidetracks, plus mulch some olives to rehabilitate the old swamp, halfway up on the right.

The first bee was in March when Mike Cerchez and the chainsaw cleared a good number of olives while Daphne, Ron, Pete, Lareen and Lyn pulled boneseed and helped move the olives.

The second bee in April saw Amber, Daphne, Ron, Pete, Lareen, Jen & Tim Tolley and Ray. Jen and Tim had a good go at the olives with a bowsaw and 2 of Daphne's grandchildren put in a good morning's work dragging the olives up to an old track.

Our third bee in May was unfortunate that it fell on Mother's Day, Daphne came for a short time to take some photos while Lyn and a new lady member pulled boneseed. Ray at first and later with Ron cut and poisoned olive stumps.

If anyone wants to work in the park anytime, they could walk up this track and continue wherever they can see work that needs doing. Please let the Info. Centre know before you start though.

COMING EVENTS

MEETINGS

JUNE Sat 5th, Information Centre, 1.00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Professor Mike Tyler.

JULY Sat 3rd, Information Centre, 1.00 p.m.

AUGUST Sat 7th, Information Centre, 1.00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER Sat 4th, Information Centre, 1.00 p.m.

WORKING BEES

All working bees suspended untill further notice.

WALKS

Tuesday Walks

JUNE, Tuesdays 8th and 22nd, meet 2.00 p.m.
Info. Centre Car park.

JULY, Tuesdays 13th and 27th, meet 2.00 p.m.
Info Centre Car park.

AUGUST, Tuesdays 10th and 24th, meet 2.00 p.m. Info Centre Car park.

SEPTEMBER, Tuesdays 14th and 28th, meet 2.00 p.m. Info Centre Car park.

Patron's Walks

JUNE Tuesday 29th, meet at the bottom of Ackland's Hill, **will leave here 1.45 p.m. sharp**, or meet at Yorke Drive, off Blacks Road, Flagstaff Hill, at 2.00 p.m., for a walk in the Sturt Gorge Recreation Park.

AUGUST Tuesday 31st, meet bottom Ackland's Hill, 2.00 p.m. for a visit to Scott Creek C.P.

Cleland Walk

SEPTEMBER Sunday 26th, leaving at 9.30 a.m., from the Information Centre and going in an anticlockwise direction to the lunch time stop on the eastern side of the park.

FRIENDS FORUM

The forum this year is to be held at Napperby, near Port Pirie, from September the 10th to 12th inclusive.

PATRON'S TALK

by Ray. Nash, alias the editor.

First I would like to discuss the matter of the rangers and their personal time that they spend in visiting the various Friends Groups. You may not know, but when a ranger visits a group in his or her own time they get no compensation from the their employer for this time. For this reason we cannot expect people to give their private time to us free IF there is the likelihood that they are about to loose their job, for this reason alone we should support them in their fight with the Government. The best way, after complaining to the Government etc, to support the staff is to withdraw

our work effort for a time as a show of support physically.

Besides the above we should also be fighting to increase park staff. I know some people have negative attitudes to the park staff, but if you take your time to study what is being done in our parks, with the limited number of staff there are, then one will find that a great amount of real work is being done. Besides this, the work of rehabilitation that is being carried out in the parks is mostly in the research and learning stage. Here a great effort is needed to achieve positive results, a need that must have enthusiastic, trained and on going staff commitments. If a person's job is on the line then that person is not going to give the best of efforts, we need the park staff to feel secure to achieve the best results.

Now to our own park efforts. I am a bit dismayed at the dwindling numbers at our working bees, each one sees fewer and fewer members attending. That is all I am going to say for now.

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Plant Watch by Lareen Newman.

Just to encourage you all to choose a plant ready for next season, here is how I watched and reported on my plant last season. I chose a small bush which I liked (and found out from Ray later what species it was). Every time I went to the park I checked the stage it was at, jotting this down in a small pad when I got home. At the end of the season the rangers were pleased to get a (small) labelled bag of seeds with a one-page report on my findings. A short version of the layout might give you some idea of what to record (but is open for improvement).

Editors comment.

Besides Lareen, Daphne has been doing work in the above field and collect some small amount of seed as well as preparing and presenting reports to the rangers.

Both members are congratulated as this project had no formal instruction and just meager directions. They have both done well, but how about giving them some competition next season.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is **SEPTEMBER 22ND 1993**, please have your contribution in by then. Thank you.

Views expressed in articles printed in this Newsletter are not necessary those of the group or editor.

Lareen's report.

SPECIES: *Pultenea largiflorens*

Monitored Oct-Dec 1992 by Lareen Newman, Friends of Belair.

Site: Just east of the triangle of roads leading to OGH.

Date, Comments & Weather

WEEK 1

Buds coming

7 Oct 10% flowers out, 90% buds Sunny/warm

WEEK 2

12 Oct 25% flowers just finished, Sunny/warm
50% still in flower, 25% buds

WEEK 5

2 Nov Green seed pods just developing Warm, 30'

WEEK 10

6 Dec Seed pods green and fat Cool

WEEK 12

PODS BROWN AND RIPENING

23 Dec Some seed pods brown and ripe warm

SOME COLLECTED

SUMMARY OF FLOWERING, CARPELS AND RIPENING

From most flowers finished to carpels forming took 2 weeks

From carpels forming to starting to fatten took 2 weeks

From green carpels to ripening took 7 weeks.

CHOOSE A PLANT NOW READY FOR WHEN THE BUDS APPEAR!!!

(It doesn't matter if someone else has chosen the same, the flowering times are quite different in different parts of the park and will surely differ each year according to the weather).

HAVE YOU PAYED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION YET? If not, then Joyce will be pleased to receive. yours.

A POEM FOR BELAIR NATIONAL PARK.

The following poem was found by Daphne Johncock in *Wildlife Australia Magazine* and is the work of twenty one year old Western Australian drama student Andrew John Paterson.

A Breath of Bel Air (National Park)

Past the ancient pink gums (Planted in rows for Prince Edward)
Past the asphalt tennis courts (here the city tourists)
Past the ovals and nursery (where the locals dwell)
Past the Old Government House (a failed attempt to force England)
Over the grimy railroad track (that steal and rumble to Melbourne)
Hushhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh
Slip down safely on the yellow hollow straw
Down into dell of creek and valley shade
Where light and water flutter to reflect
and play on trees
One sound 'mopoke' echoes to the walls
Of rocky towers A hidden waterfall
Sacred Site
My soul Light
Sprinkling water
Softly falls
Down the slopes
Finely etched
Siiilencce
Orange soaks the sky
Deepening into azure and the Evening
'chak chak chak' chak chak chak'
Cicadas
A Burst A Flare
Colour here, there
From tree to tree Radiant Red Flash of green
A busy sight
A noisy flight
A screeching skrawking flock of Parrots! (who have come)
Past the trees Past the courts
Past the nursery Past the house
Past the railway Down the slope
And given me
One moment here
in Ecstasy!